

## **Kendra Lowe**

### **Alumni Interview**

October 2007

**INTERVIEWER:** This is Kendra Lowe and we are really happy to be able to interview you today. So, what websites do you recommend to those who are interested in the field?

**LOWE:** Well, there are several. Dependant on your major in media music, there are several areas you can go into, from film scoring to song writing to writing for musicals and things like that.

One of them that I highly recommend is IMDB.com, which stands for International Movie Database. This is for film scoring people especially. You can go on there and click any name, any title, any actor, any actress, any composer, and it will show you things they have done. Not only that, it also allows you to see more in depth certain films for film scoring, so that if you are doing a certain project or trying to look up a certain composer you can see exactly what he has done. That is a great resource. It is not going to show you any music, but it gives you the names.

**INTERVIEWER:** What would you consider must reading, hearing, and seeing in this field?

**LOWE:** No matter what style of music you are doing – film, song writing or whatever – I would definitely say, still listen to the classical music. Study the scores. Read the scores as you listen to them. Then go out and get a couple of CDs of pop music and listen to them and see where they take classical elements and put them in pop or even musical theatre. See and how it all mixes – they are all intertwined, whether we know it or not.

**INTERVIEWER:** What advice would you give to an up-and-coming student in this area, particularly regarding achieving success in the professional world?

**LOWE:** I would definitely say, obviously, don't give up.

There are a lot of people that say, "Oh, if you have not started paying your dues now, and you are only starting in college, it is going to take forever." But that is not always the case. Someone who has the will and the drive mentally can do anything they want.

I had some teachers throughout growing up who said certain things. I would keep going. Keep going! But I would also very strongly recommend diligence in practice. Diligence in practice. You can not bypass and jump from point "a" to the finish line. You have got to keep practicing and listening and being diligent and working very hard. You can not skip any steps.

**INTERVIEWER:** Let me ask you another question that is not on here. How do you find a good teacher to go to?

**LOWE:** I was very fortunate when I was little because my parents had us with great teachers and I was so young that I did not even remember starting with them. It takes a great teacher, plus somebody practicing with you – whether it is a parent or not. A great teacher will be somebody who works with your personality well and that pushes you. You have got to make sure that they will push – it takes a lot of criticism and not just praise all the time. You have got to be encouraged, but you also need to have a teacher who is pushing.

I would go a lot by reputation and if that does not work, I would go and find other options. They definitely have to work with your personality in pushing you. Without pushing you it is not going to work.

**INTERVIEWER:** What brings you the most happiness or satisfaction in your career?

**LOWE:** For me, honestly, I do the music that I do because first of all I love how, in the Church point of view, you can feel the Spirit with music. For me, I want to have people feel the love of their Heavenly Father. If I can do that through music, then I am the most happy. That is honestly why I do it; and also it is nice to pay off school loans, monetarily speaking. But it is definitely seeing people happy and seeing people smile.

**INTERVIEWER:** What has brought you the most frustration?

**LOWE:** People not recognizing hard work! Or they might come up and say, “Oh you sound like so-and-so” and so-and-so might be someone who has never even tried or practiced.

Also, when people do not follow through – when they do not put in their share of the work – if you are working with other people. It is very frustrating.

**INTERVIEWER:** Has being an active member of the Church affected your work in this field?

**LOWE:** Absolutely. I know without a doubt that the greatest blessings I have experienced have been because of my faith in the Church and activity in the Church. Every time that I get frustrated or down about something, wondering why I am in this crazy music business, something will always happen, a little miracle. It is like when you are short on money but you always pay your tithing – that principle of tithing, being obedient – the Lord will always bless you. That is the same way it is with music for me. If I am obedient to what I feel I am supposed to be doing, it always works out, ten fold.

**INTERVIEWER:** How and why did you choose to work in this field?

**LOWE:** I grew up in a very musical family and we performed all over. From very young I knew I wanted to play an instrument because my older sisters did. The formal lessons kept going and going and going and I realized, "You know, I can make a living in this business." I also enjoyed it so much so I thought I might as well try my hand in a lot of different areas and I have enjoyed it so much.

Since I was five-years-old I wanted to do film scoring – music for films – but I knew it would take certain things to get there. So many different avenues have led me there, and are still leading me there. I never changed my major while I was at BYU because I knew this is what I wanted to do – it just brings me happiness.

**INTERVIEWER:** Any other advice that you would give?

**LOWE:** Study hard. For those who are in school right now, study hard. There is a reason for all of those classes that you take.

It is something where you might get out of BYU, or any college, and say, "Gosh, I wish I would have listened more." "Gosh, I wish I would have taken more notes and now I could use them." "Oh, what did he say there?"

Listen. Listen. Listen! And do not let any day pass at school without appreciating exactly what you are taught.